

A Plea for Prayer – July, 2016 – No. 162

We would appreciate updates on the location of our military because of continued unit movements.

Note: This list and plea will be updated and expanded as God gives information and grace. While this prayer plea is posted on the Internet, every effort is made to keep information appropriately private and with minimum information on mission, units and location. All requests, news and update information should be sent to the editor at: Coie.1@opc.org

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13). Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever (Isaiah 32:17).

The request continues. Please pray for our OPC men and women, sons and daughters who are in harm's way, about to be in harm's way, and who support those in harm's way. *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16b). Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).*

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Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. (Psalm 85:10)

Prayer Focus – Grace and Peace - War and rumors of war are often on the minds of our military servicemen and women as well as for their families who support them. They live in an alert posture. They are constantly sensing when the next deployment order will come. They are poised for battle. So it is with our law enforcement. They live this same readiness posture as they listen for that next call for assistance. In a real sense there is no real rest for those who deter, defend, protect, serve and restrain evil.

Scripture speaks of a war that is not seen with human eyes. It is the spiritual war that has been won by the propitiating love of Christ. 1 John 4:10 sets forth: *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* He has secured Peace through Grace. He has given rest to the weary. Colossians 1:20 reminds us that *through him to reconcile to himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

But the battles continue as God subdues his enemies through grace and brings them into a state of peace. Romans 5:10 proclaims *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life* and Philippians 2:10 - *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.*

Our OPC Chaplains provide spiritual leadership on both kinetic and spiritual battlefields. They occupy battle positions in the temporal and the spiritual. They do battle with the seen and the unseen through Christ's Word and Sacrament. Ephesians 6:12 - *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Let us pray for our Chaplains who in the name of Christ faithfully do battle with principalities and powers on behalf of the men and women they minister to. Let us lift up our Chaplains and praise God for their leadership as they deliver the message of grace and peace which provides true rest. Let us think often of our Chaplains and their families as they also need to rest in the Grace and Peace of our Almighty.

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Please pray for our valiant men of war to call out to God continually for strength to enable victory over the enemy and that they will continue to be well equipped for battle. And please pray that our nation will be led by humble leaders who call on the name of the Lord and rule righteously that we might have peace. Please pray that God will *show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him*. Pray that they will fear only God and not man and be of a good courage. Pray that they will be bold as a lion and that the wicked will flee. (Prov. 28:1)

Pray as we battle forces both foreign and domestic in our long war; plead with our God to make a way of escape from defeat, from losing heart in the battle and that in doing so, God will restore us as a nation to His righteousness. Pray for the gracious and needed gift from God of genuine national repentance; especially from the iniquities of abortion, supporting homosexuality, the widespread disregard of the fourth commandment and rejection of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Continue to pray that we will recognize the true nature of the enemy. Be not weary in hoping, praying and waiting to see the salvation of our great God whose new mercies come every morning! Pray that the Gospel may continue to have free expression. Pray that the culture of death will be defeated and that our nation will stand united and will endure in the defense of freedom. Please continue to pray for the spouses, children, parents and siblings of our warriors. Pray for the families of the fallen and for the wounded that they may all endure and come to rest and trust in Christ. May they defend our nation's liberties as guaranteed by our Constitution with stalwart hearts and minds!

May we be **“animated to pray by the certain hope of obtaining our requests.”** Calvin

We have lives precious to us in harm's way: Cody, John, Neal and Samuel have all returned safely. Praise God for his continued mercies of protection. New deployments are shown in bold.

- From Elder Tom - Thanks for keeping this going. Here is an update on my sons, Samuel and Matthew. Cpl Samuel L. M., USMC, is now Sgt Samuel L. M, USMC, having been promoted on June 1, 2016. He is still assigned to 2nd Radio Bn. SN Matthew D. M., USN, is now ETN3 Matthew D. M., USN. He successfully completed Naval Nuclear Power School, and is waiting to class up for the Nuclear Power Training Unit. Upon completion he will be assigned to a submarine.
- Please pray for Chaplain John Carter for healing of a medical condition that has been caught early and is being treated. Please continue in prayer for the continuing recovery of Carolyn Parker, wife of retired Navy chaplain Stephen Parker.
- Please pray for the Bryan J. Weaver family as they adjust to the loss of their dear husband and father, and that God will sustain them and comfort them in the assurance of Bryan's home going to Glory to be in the presence of Christ our King.

- Congratulations to 2nd LT Isaac W. USA, on his recent graduation from West Point. He is heading for training in MD.

- Congratulations to Navy Chaplain John Carter on his being selected for promotion to Commander. Praise God for His blessings!

- Thank you for your prayers for your Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel as they presented their report to the General Assembly and for journeying mercies for all who attended. We were much blessed. Ch (Lt. Col.) Rick Dickinson MEANG Ret. and CH (Col.) Christopher Wisdom USA Ret. were elected to the Class of 2019. Mr. Coie's desire to retire after nearly 14 years of service was granted (see below).

- The revision of DADT presents difficulties for many Christians, both those serving in line positions and those serving as chaplains. Therefore we urge you to pray:

1. For all who serve in our military who name the name of Christ,
2. For all Christian chaplains who serve not only the military but also their churches under creedal statements of faith and belief,
3. That the implementation of this legislation will be just and righteous,
4. That the heretofore moral standards of our military will not be severely denigrated by those of good moral character leaving this godly calling,
5. That the Committee and Commission will have wisdom in order to protect those who serve. Praise God that the Commission has adopted additional protections for our chaplains. Please pray that God will grant a powerful and sustained protection for our chaplains from this revision.
6. That our military, which has taken an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, will not be diminished or perish,
7. That this trial will not also in time descend on the pulpits of our land.

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The following resolution of appreciation for Mr. Coie from the Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel was read at General Assembly and entered into the Minutes:

Only those who have served in our Nation's defense, far from home and in harm's way, can fully appreciate the effort of loved ones to stay in touch and remember them in prayer. No one among us has done more to encourage and assist us in this matter than Robert "Bob" Coie.

He was born Robert McCornack Coie on 29 March 1938 to OPC charter members the Rev. Glenn R. and Gladys M. Coie. In his eleventh year he professed his faith at Knox OPC, Silver Spring, Maryland. His course of academic study in the fields of Engineering and Math found him at Calvin College, Long Beach City College and CalState, Long Beach. Between 29 February 1956 and 27 February 1962 he enlisted and served in the USMC Reserve, attaining the rank of Corporal functioning as Assistant Platoon Sergeant. On 21 May 1972 Mr. Coie was ordained a ruling elder. In February of 2003, in response to the continuing wartime tempo being experienced by our military forces and their loved ones, Bob initiated the Plea for Prayer, so that OPC congregations and other concerned individuals might have guidance in praying for and supporting loved ones in Uniform. "The Plea" was adopted for dissemination by our Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel in the summer of 2003 and continues to the present.

Since 2005 Bob has served on this Committee, tirelessly devoting himself to the maintenance and publication of this instrument, and all that concerns the welfare of our chaplains, military personnel and their dependents. As he steps down from this Committee we want to express and record our profound thanks and sense of debt for all his service and sacrifice. May the coming days find Bob and his dear Martha blessed and flourishing in their continuing service to our Savior and His Church.

Photos from General Assembly:

http://www.opc.org/images/featuregraphics/GA2016album/index.html#DSC_1046.jpg – committee members Rick Dickinson and Mike Cloy

http://www.opc.org/images/featuregraphics/GA2016album/index.html#DSC_1047.jpg – some of the military veteran commissioners who saluted Bob Coie

http://www.opc.org/images/featuregraphics/GA2016album/index.html#DSC_1054.jpg – Bob Coie

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Chaplains' Reports

LT Cornelius Johnson, CHC, USN, Navy Chaplains School, Fort Jackson, SC

The ministry at Twenty Nine Palms is going very well. My supervisor and I provided spiritual care for four thousand Marine students at the Marine Electronics School. I have recently started three different Bible Studies for the Marine Training Students and the instructors. The studies are on a variety of topics like the attributes of God and the person of Jesus Christ. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please continue to pray for my family and that the Lord would use the Bible Studies to save the lost and edify the saints.

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CH (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff, USA, Warrior Transition Battalion, Tacoma, WA

I am now assigned to the WTB at JBLM while I am going through the MEB. I will be medically retired from active duty by the end of September. I hope to serve my Presbytery as a retired minister. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray for the process of my medical board. I have served as a Chaplain for 27 years and I will be medically retired. It has been an honor to serve for God & Country. May God continue to bring fruit and glorify Jesus through the ministry of His Word.

EMAIL: earl.w.vanderhoff.mil@mail.mil

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Pray that President Barack H. Obama, will guide us as a nation in righteousness that is according to God's Word, and that he will *be just, ruling in the fear of God* (II Sam 23:3b). Pray for those who lead our warriors, from those in the cabinet to the NCO in the field, particularly for all those who name the Name of Christ.

Pray for those who serve us, that their courage, strength and wisdom will not waver or fail, that their actions will be swift, victorious and bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1), that God will grant them safety and bring them home to their families. Pray for their wives and families, that as they are without their loved ones, they may endure and support them. Pray that we will minister to the families in the stead of those who serve. Pray for their testimony to the lost. Please pray both publicly and privately.

Pray that our **chaplains will be bold** in the ministry of the Word – that precious Word that not only tells how we can have life eternal, but also instructs how we are to live! Pray for all our members who serve, that the light of the Gospel will burn brightly in their lives.

In His hands, Robert M. Coie for the OPC Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel with the Prayer Focus by COL Mike Cloy USA Ret.